lamentable a picture is in several forms before the public. But, if this inconvenience exists amongst a class which we define as that of working tradesmen, the evils are a hundred fold greater amongst a still lower and poorer class. Many most industrious men find themselves quite unable to pay the rent of a room, and keep themselves from starving, so that they are compelled to live in lodging-houses which are the constant resorts of the most abandoned characters.* Now, there is no doubt that by a combination, the industrious working man might at all times have some settled abode, however humble, whilst very great advantage would result to all classes, had they the opportunity of benefitting by the system. Two societies are already in existence, established for the removal of these evils, by the construction of proper places of residence. But though one of them has published an excellent prospectus, we believe it has not commenced a single building, whilst the other society has done little, except by example, for the removal of evils of such immense magnitude.† This is therefore a matter for the attention of the legislature, and we hope that after this winter, another will not be allowed to arrive, ere a considerable number of lodging-houses on an improved plan, and of club chambers of various kinds, for single and married people of all classes, are ready for occupation. The suggestion contained in the report of the Health of Towns Commission, of having outside balconies of access to the different stories, might be made available, so that each set of rooms would be in all respects like a distinct house.

In connection with this subject, the legislature will probably pursue the inquiry into the nature of different employments, and the condition of workpeople. The construction of workrooms, with every attention to warming and ventilation, will be an object of the utmost importance.

Other more immediately important questions being considered, it will not be a profitless inquiry, whether some endeavour could not be made, by which it would result that exertion and labour would lead more generally to success in life. The promotion of habits of economy, by an examination into the system of saving's-banks, which might be placed on better regulations, and made useful to a larger class of persons than now deposit in them; the affording an opportunity to young beginners in life of avoiding those heavy rents which now cripple the incomes of the most frugal, and in like manner providing a greater number of business chambers than are now to be had except at a very high rent, would be amongst the means of obtaining an end not unbecoming the notice of a government.

Lastly, it will be requisite to provide suitable places of recreation, either by establishment of public parks and gymnasia, or by the extension of the benefits of libraries and literary institutions, which should have every facility afforded them by reduced rates and taxes, and when necessary, by providing them suitable places, free of rent. And could all these subjects engage the attention of the Government, as it is to be hoped they will, it would be a favourable opportunity for the architectural improvement of towns, not, perhaps, by the erection of elaborate works of architecture, but for the removal of obstructions, and the improvement of taste, which the most ordinary opportunity is in some degree capable of effecting.

BRISTOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A general meeting of the Bristol and West of England Architectural Society, took place in the theatre of the Philosophical Institution, Park-street, on the 12th inst., at which the Rev. the Canon Harvey presided, when the secretary read the report of the committee for the past year, and two or three resolutions were passed. Two papers were read to the meeting, the one by the Rev. Eccles Carter, hon. sec., "On the influence of architectural societies," the other by Mr. Hope, "On the present state of ecclesiastical architecture."

* *Vide* The Lodging Houses of London, extracted from *The London City Mission Magazine* of August 1848. Seely, Burnside, and Co., Fleet-street.

† We have already noticed the model houses in the Bagnigge-wells-road, in a former volume, and to the defects there pointed out, we regret to add a great want of good drainage. Still we hope the committee will continue their endeavours. We shall shortly examine the model lodging-house which they are building in St. Giles's.

A PALACE IN THE GARDENS.

SIR,—I am truly happy that your correspondent, Mr. French, puts the "Royal Palace Question" in the right light. Except Windsor and Hampton Court, the nation has no palace worthy its name and place in the civilized world, and her Majesty has good right to complain of her domicile in Pimlico, brother Louis Philippe eclipsing her so entirely in his palace at Paris. The idea of throwing away money on such a smoky, gimcrack palace as that of Pimlico is an affront to the nation, and savours of that pitiful economy with which public money, "in such matters," is doled out where the national honour and reputation is concerned. Witness the plain pikestaff sort of fountains in Trafalgar-square, where sculpture ought to have lavished its riches for the eye of taste to feast on; and the hesitation that exists on forming a grand line of communication by a noble quay from Westminster to the City; whilst the National Gallery, made up of second-hand pillars, &c., from a quondam royal residence, continues a standing reproach to our national taste, and a prominent instance of the manner in which architects of celebrity are restricted, in this country, by aristocratic influence.

Now as touching a town residence for the sovereign of these realms, I think it is a happy circumstance that so many point out to one locality of all others—"Kensington Palace." This is without question the very spot for a royal residence.

It is submitted as an axiom, that all places for *state* should always be accompanied by adjuncts of a geometric character.

In Kensington Gardens we should have this character ready to our hands, and now, therefore, permit me as one of your constant readers to throw out a suggestion on this subject, proceeding thus:—

Imprimis.—I should remove the marble arch from Pimlico Palace to the south end of the grand avenue at Kensington, putting gilt palisades and guard houses on each side. This should serve for a grand portal for the sovereign to pass under when moving in state to Parliament, to the City, to St. Paul's, or to Westminster Abbey.

At the north end of the grand avenue, I should build "a Grecian temple," to be called "the Temple of Concord," the front elevation to have an open portico of lofty dimensions, and the structure to serve for promenaders to sit or gain shelter in from heat or rain. Statues in niches should form its internal decoration, and the whole be open to view.

The grand vistas, i.e. the one diverging south-east, and the other north-east, should be opened to their original width, and be fresh planted with elms, properly trained for vistas, so as to make good all deficiencies; and the trees planted ignorantly so as to *narrow* these vistas, sent back to "the Woods and Forests."

Next, a fine architectural tower should be built in the wood, north of the present basin of water. In this should be constructed a powerful steam-engine to serve the purpose of throwing a continuous stream of water into a reservoir on the top of the tower. This reservoir, if thought expedient, should answer the twofold purpose of supplying the palace reservoirs and the jets of *the grand Fountain of Neptune*, which fountain should be placed in the centre of the basin of water.

The present basin might be made to take a geometric and finished character, by having its sides coped with granite chiselled into a bold moulding; its form made *square*, with *semi-circular bays* on each of the four sides, and the four angles hollowed out and made concave to the walk. Granite seats to be placed at the four concave corners.

Rock should be elevated in the centre of the basin, on the summit of which a colossal statue of Neptune sitting should be placed, with a colossal fish circling beneath his feet, from whose mouth the principal jet should rise, and cast its waters, as it were, at the bidding of Neptune, on statues of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, of heroic size, below; statues of tritons playing in the waters at the base of the rock, should throw up water from conchs in honour of Neptune,—and the rock, the statues, and the jets, be made to form a splendid harmonious whole.

This fountain would be a fine feature from the state apartments of the east front of the new palace, and also of the public promenade of the grand avenue.

A group of statuary should be placed near the angle of the wood and avenue on each side, and statuary also on lofty pedestals at equal distances along the grand avenue.

In planting these *pleasaunces*, recourse must be had to the skilled in horticulture, so as not only to have every species of tree, shrub, and flower that would add grace to such a locality, but to place each in its proper position (as to size when grown), aspect, and effect. A French gardener of eminence should share in this council, and so also the painter of landscape scenery: a mere rotative gardener by profession will not prove effective in the geometric style, as the contrast of colours, the repetition of similar objects without tedium, and the air *riante*, is known best how to be imparted by French taste; and light and shadow, to prove effective, by that of the landscape painter.

In a climate like England, we must, of all places in the world, endeavour in our habitations—whether palace, hall, or cottage—to throw on as much of a sunny, smiling aspect as is possible.

I have, therefore, proposed herein to make the living apartments all *south*. There are few years, and few days in a year, in which sun is embarrassing in Great Britain; and if so, loftiness of apartment, blinds, and good ventilation will easily rid us of such inconvenience; whilst, the greater part of the year, sun is the source of the greatest animation and comfort. I cannot help saying, that I yet know of no palace in Europe, where a more truly effective scene would be presented to the eye of a congregated court, than would be viewed by it in these said apartments.

Branch spacious gravel ways should be made from the fountain of Neptune down each of the vistas, having connection with the gravel walks in other parts of the gardens.

And now as to the new palace.—I should, perhaps, take the exact site of the old palace; but make the east front the principal one, the south front the living apartments, the north front the chapel front, the west front the grand entrance front, and the court of the interior for domestic quarters. The palace should stand on a rustic basement, which basement should form the offices, cellars, &c., and part of which should form the terraces for the three principal fronts. Each terrace to be 40 feet wide at least, having stone balustrades, and wide steps of descent in the centre of each terrace, in order to go down to the three "pleasaunces" below. At the foot of the terraces would be the parterres for exotics. The pleasaunces should be laid out in the Italian style, with statues, vases, fountains, high and low parterres bordered with stone, exotic trees in vases (in cases), and sunk in the ground sometimes to look as if growing there. Here and there, should be some topiary work and clipped evergreen divisional screens; also plenty of mowed lawn, for dry weather, and gravel walks for damp weather.

Neiton. W. M., Lieut.-Col.

THE PROPER FORM OF FLUES

THE greater number of chimnies, as at present found in dwelling-houses, are more or less crooked. The openings into the rooms are comparatively large, and the external endings generally contracted.

To any one who will take the trouble of lighting a fire in the open air, on a calm day, when there is scarcely a breath of air stirring, or can remember having seen such a thing done, the following facts will recur immediately. The form assumed by the flame is pyramidal, while that of the products of combustion is an elongated and inverted cone, spreading afterwards into a flattened cloud, in its returning progress towards the earth.

Looking, then, at the form assumed by nature in the phenomena of combustion, and its consequences, and afterwards at the ordinary shape of the tubes in our houses for the removal of smoke, it will be seen there is an anomaly.

Upon examining the phenomena of combustion in the open air, it is found, that the form of the elongated and inverted cone of smoke is produced by the resistance of the air at every point of ascent, until the heat which

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